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March 3, 2005

Hon. Louise M. Slaughter
Ranking Member
House Rules Committee

Hon. John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member
House Judiciary Committee

Dear Congresspersons:

I write in response to your letters of February 10, 2005 and February 23, 2005. I acknowledge receipt and review of both your letters. In particular, I note in response to your February 10 letter that while I cannot confirm or deny the accuracy of any of the assertions made in your letter, any alleged compromise of Ms. Plame's purported affiliation with the Central Intelligence Agency ("CIA") would fall within the scope of my current assignment as Special Counsel.

With regard to your request in that same letter that I report any progress on the investigation, I am constrained by Rule 6(e) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and Department of Justice policy and practice not to comment on pending investigations.

With regard to your February 23 letter, I will take the information proffered under advisement but otherwise cannot comment for the reasons set forth above.

Very truly yours,

PATRICK J. FITZGERALD
Special Counsel